(c) the programmes with the least 20 per cent allocation out of the budget allocation of Rs. 5756.54 crores to be undertaken for 2007-08 alongwith the amount likely to be spent and benefits to be accrued to these sections, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) Rs. 4274.69 crores and Rs. 5756.54 crores were earmarked during 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively for programmes on school education and literacy for benefits to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Though various schemes of school education and literacy are designed to impart benefits in a general manner and schemes are not designed exclusively for SCs/STs but several preferences/concessions are built in the operational design of the schemes to extend benefits to SCs/STs.

Educational facilities and infrastructure are provided in an integrated manner and utilization of funds is also done in an integrated manner. The gross enrolment ratios of SC students at elementary stage of education has risen from 85.6% in 2001-02 to 98.8% in 2004-05 and that of ST students has risen from 88.9% in 2001-02 to 102.4% in 2004-05.

Forecast by Indian Meteorological Department

†*550. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Meteorological Department has forecast that there will be 5 per cent less rain than the average rain during the ensuing monsoon;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that several international meteorological departments have forecast a good monsoon contrary to the said forecast by Indian Meteorological Department;

(c) if so, whether any final forecast has been made to get rid of said confusion; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. India Meteorological Department, based on the new statistical model predicted that the 2007 southwest seasonal (June to September) rainfall over the country is likely to be 5 per cent less than the long period average (LPA) (LPA:89 cm based on 1941-1990.data). This forecast was made based on the data up to March, 2007.

(b) Yes, Sir. It is true that several international meteorological institutes in US, UK and Europe have predicted above-average monsoon over India for the 2007 southwest monsoon season.

(c) and (d) These institutes prepare forecasts based on coupled ocean-atmosphere dynamical models, using initial data of April. They also take into account the EL-nino La Nina conditions. The dynamical models have reached the accuracy level of prediction of 7 days and research work is going on to increase it to 10 days in nothern latitudes. However, the dynamical models do not give accurate forecasts in long term. However, some scientists in these institutes are trying to see whether the dynamical model will give reasonable accuracy due to averaging effects. This will take many years to prove or disprove.

IMD forecast is based on statistical method. A new method has been developed this year which gives in improved accuracy. IMD has more confidence in its synoptic and statistical methods for long range forecast than forecasts from these institutes that have stared these forecasts only recently.

IMD will be issuing an updated forecast in June based on observation data up to May, 2007. More information on the evolution of sea surface temperature (SST) conditions (La Nina conditions) over the Pacific Ocean will be known by them.

Funds for education of Muslim Community

*551. SHRI ABDUL WHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount has been earmarked for the education of persons belonging to Muslim Community;

(b) whether any detailed plan has been chalked out in this regard; and

(c) if so, the status of the Plan?